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HINCHEY CALLS ON BUSH TO INVEST IN EDUCATION

WASHINGTON – U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today criticized the Bush Administration for touting education as a top priority and then proposing a massive tax cut that will severely curtail education spending. Hinchey, along with Senator Paul Wellstone and several of his House colleagues, spoke at a press conference called by Wellstone.

"While the president likes to say that no child will be left behind," said Hinchey, "his actions tell us that he is more interested in giving tax breaks to the wealthy than he is in our nation's children. With so much to be done in improving education -in addition to other important goals- how can the Bush Administration think this is the time for a tax cut of this magnitude?"

Throughout the 2000 campaign and the early days of his presidency, President Bush has said that education would be foremost among his priorities. But he has been more vigorously promoting a \$1.6 trillion tax cut plan, the benefits of which would go overwhelmingly to the very wealthiest of Americans. Hinchey and his colleagues today pointed out that such a tax cut would make much-needed investments in education impossible.

"While I have serious concerns with President Bush's education plan," added Hinchey, "I was pleased to see that he was at least giving it significant attention. But this huge tax cut proposal makes it clear that the president's talk of education as a priority is just rhetoric. If he were serious about improving education, he would put the money of the American people where it is needed and begin to fund education properly."